REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 10, 12-16 and 18 have been amended. Claims 1-16 and 18 are pending in the application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC 102/103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 and 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nonaka et al. (5,471,441) (hereinafter "Nonaka").

Claims 3, 5-7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nonaka.

Nonaka discloses a CD player capable of playing back a partially recorded CD. In Nonaka, the decoder unit 6 includes an audio-data decoding section 6A and a control-data decoding section 6B. The audio-data decoding section 6A converts the received playback RF signal S_{RF} into a binary signal, separates a frame sync pattern therefrom, demodulates the signal based on the EFM (Eight to Fourteen Modulation), performs signal processing, such as error correction, on the resultant signal, and outputs audio data D_{AD} to a D/A converter section 10. The audio-data decoding section 6A also outputs control data D_{CN} included in a sub code to the control-data decoding section 6B. The decoding section 6B decodes the control data D_{CN} and outputs the resultant data to the system controller 7. At the same time, the decoder unit 6 produces a spindle servo error signal S_{SE} from the input playback RF signal S_{RF} and outputs it to the second servo section 3B. The second servo section 3B serves as a spindle servo section. Based on the spindle servo error signal S_{SE} and control signal S_{CON}, the second servo section 3B outputs the spindle servo control signal S_{SC} to the spindle motor 2 to rotate the spindle motor 2 at a predetermined speed. The D/A converter section 10 converts the input audio data D_{AD} into an analog signal and outputs it as an audio output signal S_{OUT}. The system controller 7 performs the general control of the CD player 100 based on the control data D_{CN} and an operation control signal from a display/operation section 11. The system controller 7 has a memory 7A memorizing various data. The display/operation section 11 is equipped with a display section to display various types of information and inform a user of such information, and performs various displays under the control of the system controller 7. Nonaka, 8:17-8:48.

Claims 1-11

Amended claim 1 recites: "…setting the sub-code data using a table of contents (TOC) information of a disc installed in the optical disc drive and a number of outputs of predetermined unit data whenever data of the predetermined unit is output from the buffer; and transmitting the set sub-code data to the host computer when the sub-code data is requested from the host computer in a state where the pick-up is set to be in the temporary pause mode during a reproduction mode." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 2 and paragraphs [0027] and [0028] of the specification. In contrast to claim 1, Nonaka does not discuss that the sub-code data is set using the table of contents and a number of outputs of predetermined data. Nonaka only discusses that index information called TOC (Table Of Contents) is recorded in the lead-in area LIA, and the total number of recorded information pieces are recorded as a sub code also in that area LIA.

Further, Nonaka does not discuss transmitting the set sub-code data to the host computer when the sub-code data is requested from the host computer in a state where the pick-up is set to be in the temporary pause mode during a reproduction mode.

Claims 2-11 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above. Further, claims 2 and 4-11 recite features that patentably distinguish over Nonaka. For example, claim 2 recites that the sub-code data is set to include track information, a relative address, and an absolute address.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

Claim 12

Amended claim 12 recites: "…setting a current item of the sub-code data using a table of contents (TOC) information of a disc installed in the optical disc drive and a number of outputs of predetermined unit data in response to one of the predetermined units of the data being read from the buffer while checking whether the buffer is full; and transmitting the current item of the set sub-code data to the host computer in response to the buffer being full and a request from the host computer for the sub-code data in a state where the pick-up is set to be in the temporary pause mode during the reproduction mode." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 2 and paragraphs [0027] and [0028] of the specification. In contrast to claim 12, Nonaka does not discuss that the sub-code data is set using the table of

contents and a number of outputs of predetermined data. Nonaka only discusses that index information called TOC (Table Of Contents) is recorded in the lead-in area LIA, and the total number of recorded information pieces are recorded as a sub code also in that area LIA.

Further, Nonaka does not discuss transmitting the set sub-code data to the host computer when the sub-code data is requested from the host computer in a state where the pick-up is set to be in the temporary pause mode during a reproduction mode.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claim 13

Amended claim 13 recites: "…setting a current item of the sub-code data using a table of contents (TOC) information of a disc installed in the optical disc drive and a number of outputs of predetermined unit data in response to one of the predetermined units of the data being read from the buffer; and transmitting the current item of the set sub-code data to the host computer in response to a request from the host computer for the sub-code data in a state where the pick-up is set to be in the temporary pause mode during the reproduction mode." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 2 and paragraphs [0027] and [0028] of the specification. In contrast to claim 13, Nonaka does not discuss that the sub-code data is set using the table of contents and a number of outputs of predetermined data. Nonaka only discusses that index information called TOC (Table Of Contents) is recorded in the lead-in area LIA, and the total number of recorded information pieces are recorded as a sub code also in that area LIA.

Further, Nonaka does not discuss transmitting the set sub-code data to the host computer when the sub-code data is requested from the host computer in a state where the pick-up is set to be in the temporary pause mode during a reproduction mode.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claim 14

Amended claim 14 recites: "…setting the sub-code data using a table of contents (TOC) information of a disc installed in the optical disc drive and a number of outputs of predetermined unit data in response to the data being output from the buffer; and transmitting the set sub-code data to the host computer when the sub-code data is requested by the host computer during a

reproduction mode in a state where the pick-up is set to be in the temporary pause mode during the reproduction mode." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 2 and paragraphs [0027] and [0028] of the specification. In contrast to claim 14, Nonaka does not discuss that the sub-code data is set using the table of contents and a number of outputs of predetermined data. Nonaka only discusses that index information called TOC (Table Of Contents) is recorded in the lead-in area LIA, and the total number of recorded information pieces are recorded as a sub code also in that area LIA.

Further, Nonaka does not discuss transmitting the set sub-code data to the host computer when the sub-code data is requested from the host computer in a state where the pick-up is set to be in the temporary pause mode during a reproduction mode.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claim 15

Amended claim 15 recites: "...setting the sub-code data using a table of contents (TOC) information of a disc installed in the optical disc drive and a number of outputs of predetermined unit data in response to the audio data being output from the buffer; and transmitting the set sub-code data to the host computer when the sub-code data is requested by the host computer in a state where the pick-up is set to be in the temporary pause mode during a reproduction mode." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 2 and paragraphs [0027] and [0028] of the specification. In contrast to claim 15, Nonaka does not discuss that the sub-code data is set using the table of contents and a number of outputs of predetermined data. Nonaka only discusses that index information called TOC (Table Of Contents) is recorded in the lead-in area LIA, and the total number of recorded information pieces are recorded as a sub code also in that area LIA.

Further, Nonaka does not discuss transmitting the set sub-code data to the host computer when the sub-code data is requested from the host computer in a state where the pick-up is set to be in the temporary pause mode during a reproduction mode.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claim 16

Amended claim 16 recites: "...setting the virtual sub-code data using a table of contents

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(TOC) information of a disc installed in the optical disc drive and a number of outputs of predetermined unit data whenever the data of a predetermined unit is output from the buffer; and transmitting the set virtual sub-code data to the host computer when the virtual sub-code data is requested from the host computer in a state where the pick-up is set to be in the temporary pause mode during a reproduction mode." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 2 and paragraphs [0027] and [0028] of the specification. In contrast to claim 16, Nonaka does not discuss that the sub-code data is set using the table of contents and a number of outputs of predetermined data. Nonaka only discusses that index information called TOC (Table Of Contents) is recorded in the lead-in area LIA, and the total number of recorded information pieces are recorded as a sub code also in that area LIA.

Further, Nonaka does not discuss transmitting the set sub-code data to the host computer when the sub-code data is requested from the host computer in a state where the pick-up is set to be in the temporary pause mode during a reproduction mode.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claim 18

Amended claim 18 recites: "...setting the sub-code data using a table of contents (TOC) information of a disc installed in the optical disc drive and a number of outputs of predetermined unit data whenever the data of one sector unit is output from the buffer; and transmitting the set sub-code data to a host computer when the sub-code data is requested from the host computer in a state where the pick-up is set to be in the temporary pause mode during a reproduction mode." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 2 and paragraphs [0027] and [0028] of the specification. In contrast to claim 18, Nonaka does not discuss that the sub-code data is set using the table of contents and a number of outputs of predetermined data. Nonaka only discusses that index information called TOC (Table Of Contents) is recorded in the lead-in area LIA, and the total number of recorded information pieces are recorded as a sub code also in that area LIA.

Further, Nonaka does not discuss transmitting the set sub-code data to the host computer when the sub-code data is requested from the host computer in a state where the pick-up is set to be in the temporary pause mode during a reproduction mode.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

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CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
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